

Bills to correct for any federal interest, rather than placing a hold on 2000 bills, would have saved considerable time and money for the District and the Congress.

It is important to emphasize that this bill does not prevent review of District laws by Congress. The D.C. Subcommittee could continue to scrutinize every piece of legislation passed by the City Council if it desired, and to change or strike legislation under the plenary authority over the District that the Constitution affords to the Congress. My bill merely eliminates the automatic hold placed on local legislation and the need to pass emergency and temporary legislation to keep the District functioning.

The hold on legislation forces the City Council to pass most legislation using a cumbersome and complicated process in which bills are passed concurrently on an emergency, temporary, and permanent basis to ensure that the large, rapidly changing city remains running. The Legislative Autonomy bill would eliminate the need for the District to engage in the byzantine process of enacting emergency and temporary legislation concurrently with permanent legislation. The Home Rule Charter contemplates that if the District needs to pass legislation while Congress is out of session, it may do so if two-thirds of the Council determines that an emergency exists, a majority of the Council approves the law and the Mayor signs it. Emergency legislation, however, lasts for only 90 days, which would (in theory) force the Council to the pass permanent legislation by undergoing the usual congressional review process when Congress returns. Similarly, the Home Rule Charter contemplates that the Council may pass temporary legislation lasting 120 days without being subjected to the congressional review process, but must endure the congressional layover period for that legislation to become law.

I ask my colleagues, who are urging the District government to pursue greater efficiency and savings, to do their part in giving the city the tools to cut through the bureaucratic maze the Congress itself has imposed upon the District. Congress has been clear that it wants to see the D.C. government taken apart and put back together again in an effort to eliminate redundancy and inefficiency. Much of that work is in progress or has been accomplished, and Congress has taken note of improvements which eliminate such inefficiency in the D.C. government. Congress should therefore eliminate that part of the bureaucracy that for which Congress is solely responsible by granting the city budgetary and legislative autonomy. Eliminating the hold on D.C.'s budget and legislation would save scarce D.C. taxpayer revenue and simultaneously eliminate the advance congressional review that helps depress the city's bond rating. At the same time, Congress would give up none of its plenary power because under Article III, Section 8 of the Constitution, the Congress can intervene into any District matter at any time.

The limited legislative autonomy granted in this bill would allow the District to realize a greater measure of meaningful self-government and Home Rule. This goal can be achieved without prejudice to congressional authority. I urge my colleagues to pass this important measure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, due to business in my District on Tuesday, April 9, 2002, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call numbers 80, 81, and 82. The votes I missed include roll call vote 80, on Approving the Journal; roll call vote 81, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Res. 377, Recognizing the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and commending the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations; and roll call vote 82 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3958, the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Settlement Act. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on roll call votes 80, 81, and 82.

HONORING ALBERTA SEBOLT GEORGE IN RECOGNITION OF HER TENURE AS PRESIDENT OF OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize in the Congress today Alberta Sebolt George, President of Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, who is retiring later this year after more than thirty years of service to the museum. I have worked closely with Alberta over the years, and can personally attest to the fact that the in-coming president of the Village has a tough act to follow.

Alberta Sebolt George began working at Old Sturbridge Village in the early seventies. In her tenure at the village, she has greatly increased the educational role the museum has played in the community. Alberta Sebolt George, a former teacher herself, has worked diligently to develop programs in the state geared to helping students learn through collaborative programs between their schools and the museum.

In 1993, Alberta Sebolt George was named Chief Executive Officer of the Old Sturbridge Village Museum. She has been honored by many for her service to the museum community as a whole. Most recently, however, she has been recognized with the American Association of Museums Distinguished Service Award, which will be formally presented this May in Texas.

Alberta's accomplishments are many. The list of positions she holds in addition to that of President at the Village is long. She holds a Presidential appointment to the National Museum Service Board and is currently on the Visiting Committees at Longwood Gardens. She is a Corporator of the Worcester Art Museum. She has served as President of the New England Museum Association, as Vice Chairman of the Board of the American Association of Museums, Senior Associate for the Getty Museum Management Institute, Chair of

the Worcester County Convention and Visitor Bureau, President of the Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies, has chaired the local school committee and has written extensively on learning and managing in museums.

Ms. George's contributions have been recognized repeatedly through the numerous awards and honors she has received. In 1999, she was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award for Professional Service from the University of Massachusetts where she earned her bachelor's degree. The American Association of Museums honored her with their Educator Award for Excellence, and the New England History Teachers gave her their Kidger Award for outstanding teaching.

I have worked closely with Alberta in her leadership position at Old Sturbridge Village. Together we have had success in targeting federal resources to the Village so that the museum's collection can be shared over the Internet in an on-line learning program.

I wish Alberta much joy and health in her retirement with her husband Al George. I am sure that between her gardening and her travel that her retirement years will be as fruitful and productive as her long and distinguished career has been. Best wishes to you, Alberta, on your retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, which was signed into law on April 10, 1979, by President Jimmy Carter. For more than two decades, the Taiwan Relations Act has served to provide the Republic of China on Taiwan the necessary security to grow ever stronger. Economically, Taiwan is now a member of the World Trade Organization and one of the strongest economic entities in the world. Politically, it is a strong and growing democracy whose people enjoy all the liberties and freedoms inherent in such a system.

It is my hope that the Taiwan Relations Act will continue to serve as the basis of our relations with democratic Taiwan. That means we must continue to assist Taiwan in meeting its legitimate security needs and continue our contact with representatives of the Taiwan government. They are democratically elected leaders of one of our largest trading partners and our continuing dialogue with them is fundamental to a mutually beneficial relationship.

In closing I would like to commend the good work that Ambassador C. J. Chen and his able staff have been performing here in Washington. Through their efforts, I am certain that the relationship between the United States and Taiwan, anchored in the Taiwan Relations Act, will enjoy continued strength in the years ahead.